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# "Norway Shall Again Be Free and Independent"

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. H. H. SCHWARTZ

OF WYOMING

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

*Monday, October 6, 1941*

RADIO ADDRESS OF HON. HARRY H. SCHWARTZ, OF WYOMING, ON A PROGRAM OF THE NORWEGIAN BROADCASTING SERVICE FROM STATION WRUL IN BOSTON, MASS., OCTOBER 8, 1941

Mr. SCHWARTZ. My good Norwegian friends: In a radio address to the American people from Washington on October 1 I stated that our foreign policy is not a matter for partisan politics. It is rather a matter of national defense, and as such has the support of most of the more prominent and influential men and women in both Democratic and Republican Parties, and it is endorsed by the great mass of the American public.

HITLER THREAT TO LABOR

In this speech I also emphasized the world-wide threat to the rights of labor which Hitler and his gang present, not only in all parts of Europe but here in the United States as well, and I made particular reference to the tragedy of Norway under Nazi control. For while other democracies of Europe also feel the bitter blight of nazi-ism, there are reasons why conditions in Norway hold particular appeal to me. Many years ago I was a resident of that part of our Central West, then being settled by immigrants from Norway, and I learned from personal contact to respect and admire these men and women who, they and their descendants, are now among the best of American citizenship. The new arrivals were all intelligent, none of them illiterate. All were willing and eager to work. They helped us build towns and cities, people our then vacant public farm lands, and establish and improve our schools and universities. Some born in Norway, and many of their sons, were and are now Governors of our States and members of our State legislatures. Today they sit in the United States Senate and House of Representatives and hold positions of high trust and responsibility in the executive and judicial branches of our Government.

NORWAY AN INSPIRATION

America is determined that Norway shall again be free and independent. In many ways Norway has been an inspiration and help in improving our own democracy. Had time permitted, all this and more I would like to have said in my radio appeal to the American people to strengthen even more our resolve to aid in every way in driving nazi-ism from the face of the earth. We will not consent to any peace until that is accomplished.

We have in America some few labor leaders who think the fight against the Nazis is not important to American wage earners. I asked them during my recent broadcast from Washington the following questions:

Where are the Italian, German, French, Belgian, Dutch, Danish, Norwegian, and eastern European labor leaders of a few years ago? In graves, in prisons, in hiding. A few survive. Some have sold their independence for a mess of pottage and now serve as labor taskmasters in nations under Nazi and Fascist control.

SLAVERY IS PART OF NAZI-ISM

Where are the labor unions of these countries? Wiped out, outlawed. They do not exist. The Nazi-controlled governmen' fix the workers' hours of work, their wages; forces, grants, or denies their right to change the character of work or the places where they may work. This slavery is not imposed merely through the necessities of war. It is part of the philosophy of nazi-ism, and war is the weapon by which this system is to be cemented and made permanent.

And where are the great captains of industry, the controllers, and principal owners of the giant corporations of industrial Germany? These men who, in their folly, financed and built up Hitler until he and his fellow racketeers destroyed free labor. They, too, have been crushed, despoiled, and rendered impotent by the Frankenstein of their own creation. Some few managed to escape from their native land. They now bemoan their stupidity in the press and magazines of America and Britain. Here in America we have some few industrial Fascists seemingly willing to travel the same road to their own economic death.

NORSE DEMOCRACY ALMOST PERFECT

Let labor consider Norway. There real democracy had reached almost perfection. Her people enjoyed every privilege and immunity set forth in the Bill of Rights in our own Federal and State Constitutions. Labor was organized in industry. Agriculture, labor, and capital worked together in harmony and in good will. Poverty and want did not exist. There was no selfish and cruel effort to accumulate great wealth and power at the expense of those who toiled to produce, transport, and distribute the products of the farm, the forest, and the factory. Norway is a fair land; it was a happy land. Then came the Nazi spies; the "fifth column" followed, seduced by bribe money; and finally the Nazi Army. Why did these emissaries of the devil come to Norway?

They came to despoil that nation, to destroy a democracy that belied the Fascist-Nazi charge that "democracies are outmoded," and they came to secure naval and military bases from which they hoped to destroy Britain, where capital and labor fight side by side.

NORWEGIANS STILL FIGHT ON

But the democracy of Norway will not surrender. It fights on, even though the Nazi military power, working through the thin disguise of the bought and traitorous Quisling, took control of the churches, muzzled its religious leaders, abolished what in our country are county and State teachers and parent-teacher organizations, disbanded the Boy Scouts

of Norway, commandeered food, smothered labor organizations, restricted the food allotted to labor. The Nazis have sent to the firing squads or to long imprisonment many courageous labor leaders who sought to bring about a mass protest against the steadily worsening conditions under which labor exists in that all but ruined country, and now, with the approach of winter, they seize the blankets from beds in Norwegian homes in order to warm the Nazi Army fighting Russia.

If ever there was a cause to which both capital and labor, leaders and rank and file alike, should give every support within their power, that cause is the defeat of Hitler and all for which he stands.

And if ever there were men whom the workers of all countries should revere and remember, it is Hansteen and Vickstrom, the two Norwegian labor leaders, who were executed by a Nazi firing squad on September 10. This execution has aroused the indignation of the whole civilized world, and the protests against this brutal deed have come even from the trade-unions of Finland, Germany's present ally, and from Sweden. The American Federation of Labor, through its president, William Green, lost no time in declaring that "American labor is proud of the unconquerable spirit of the workers in Norway" and that "the plight of Norway should impress upon the workers of America and every other nation the fate that lies in store for them should Hitler's drive for world domination be permitted to succeed."

MARTYRS SHALL BE REMEMBERED

American newspapers by the hundreds made this execution the occasion for fighting words against nazi-ism and for words of praise for the brave people of Norway. Yes, the names of Viggo Hansteen and Rolf Vickstrom shall be remembered by Americans as well as by Norwegians. These men have already taken their place not merely in the list of labor's martyrs; they are in that band of heroes who represent all classes and all professions and who throughout the centuries have defended human freedom and human civilization.

I am glad that this short-wave broadcast makes it possible for me to say directly to the people of Norway that it is the fixed policy of the United States to aid to the extent of our every resource all those who fight nazi-ism.

OUR COURSE IS CHARTED

In ever-increasing quantity American bombers and fighting planes, tanks, guns, and munitions are being sent to those who fight for freedom and independence in Europe. Many of these implements of war are manned by American pilots and gunners and serviced by American mechanics. All are volunteers in the cause of democracy. We realize that final victory cannot come immediately. But, be assured, you men and women of Norway, that we are redoubling our capacity to produce the weapons needed by those who fight Hitler in Europe; Asia, and Africa, and these weapons are being delivered, although some ships are lost at sea. Our Navy is now sweeping the seas to destroy the barbarians who sink our ships and your ships, and kill our own citizens and your citizens. Our course is charted. There will be no turning back. I bid you be of brave heart as you fight on.

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